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PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1948

Officials:

Medical Officer of Health ... Dr.W.W.Wilson,M.B.,Ch.B.
Sanitary Inspector ... G.G.Evans,M.R.San.I.
M.S.I.A.



PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District for the year 1948.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 3/49 (Wales).

During the year under review two extremely important Acts, namely the National Health Service Act 1946 and the National Assistance Act 1948 came into operation.

These Acts have produced great changes in the work of the Public Health Administration and have revolutionised the Medical and Hospital Services throughout the country. The local Health Authority under these Acts, is, in Pembrokeshire, the County Council.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the Year 1948

Area	...	31,414 acres.
Population (Census 1931)	...	2,201
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1948)	...	1,872
Number of inhabited houses	...	556

Live births	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	14	16	30	
Illegitimate	-	1	1	16.5

	Birth rate for England and Wales 17.9			
Still births	1	-	1	0.53
	Still birth rate for England and Wales 0.42.			

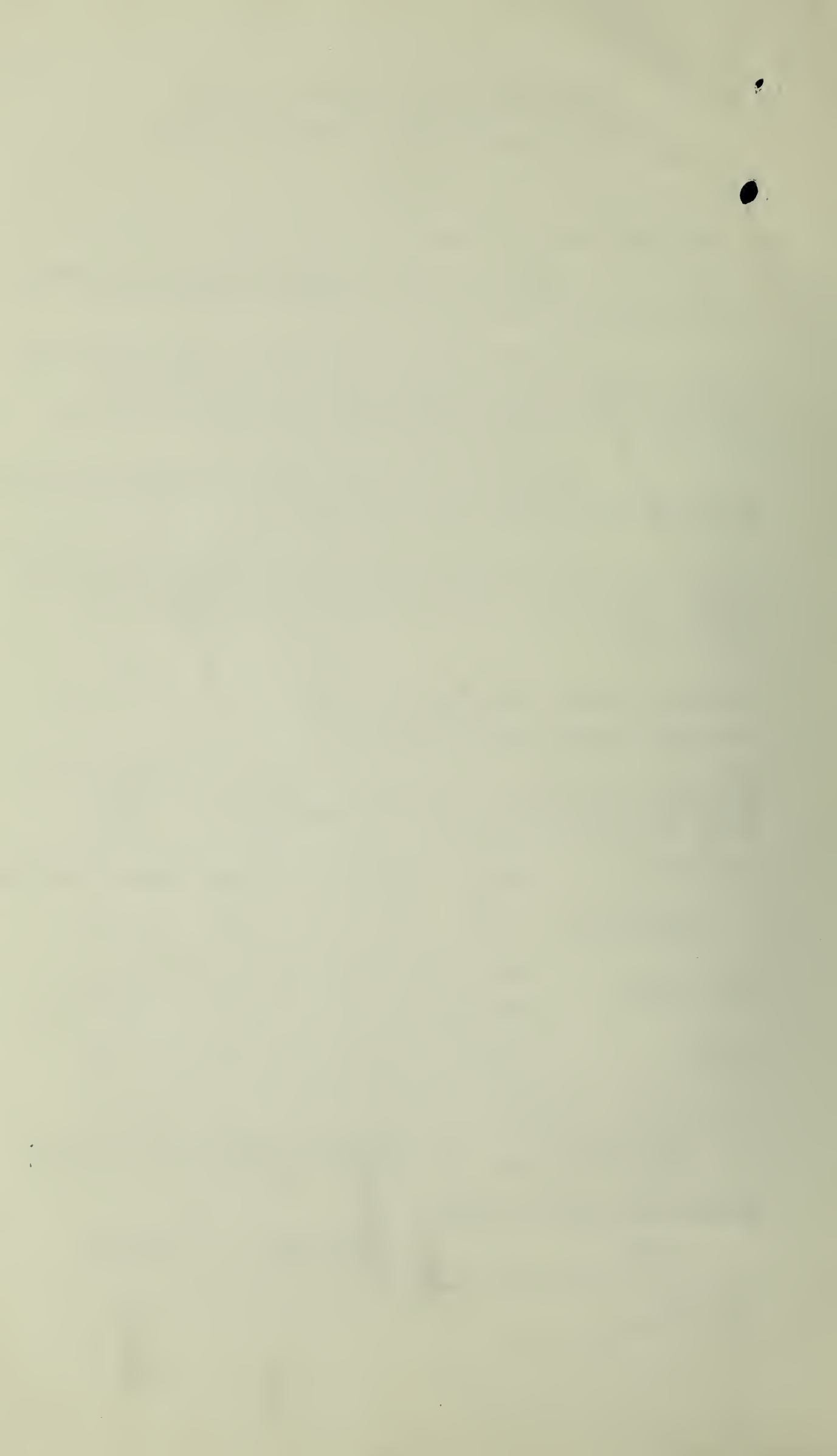
Deaths	9	9	18	9.6
	Death rate for England and Wales 10.8			

Deaths under one year:-

All infants	1.	Rate per 1,000 live births	32.2
Infant mortality	-	England and Wales	34.0

Analysis of Causes of Deaths

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory system	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Cancer Uterus	-	-
Cancer all other sites	-	1
Intracranial Vascular lesions	2	-
Heart Disease	4	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	1
Digestive Disorders	1	-
Ulcer stomach	-	-



<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Congenital Malformations	-	-
Suicide	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-
Other violent causes	-	-
Other causes	2	2

Total death rate 9.6. England and Wales 10.8.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes.

Illegitimacy

There was one illegitimate birth during the year.

Maternal Mortality

Nil.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Officers

There was no change in the public health Officers during the year and Mr. G.G.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities

During the year laboratory facilities were available at Brecon and Hereford.

All water samples were sent to the above laboratories, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities

As a result of the new National Health Service Act 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance; for infectious disease, an ambulance from the Isolation Hospital would be used.

Home Nursing

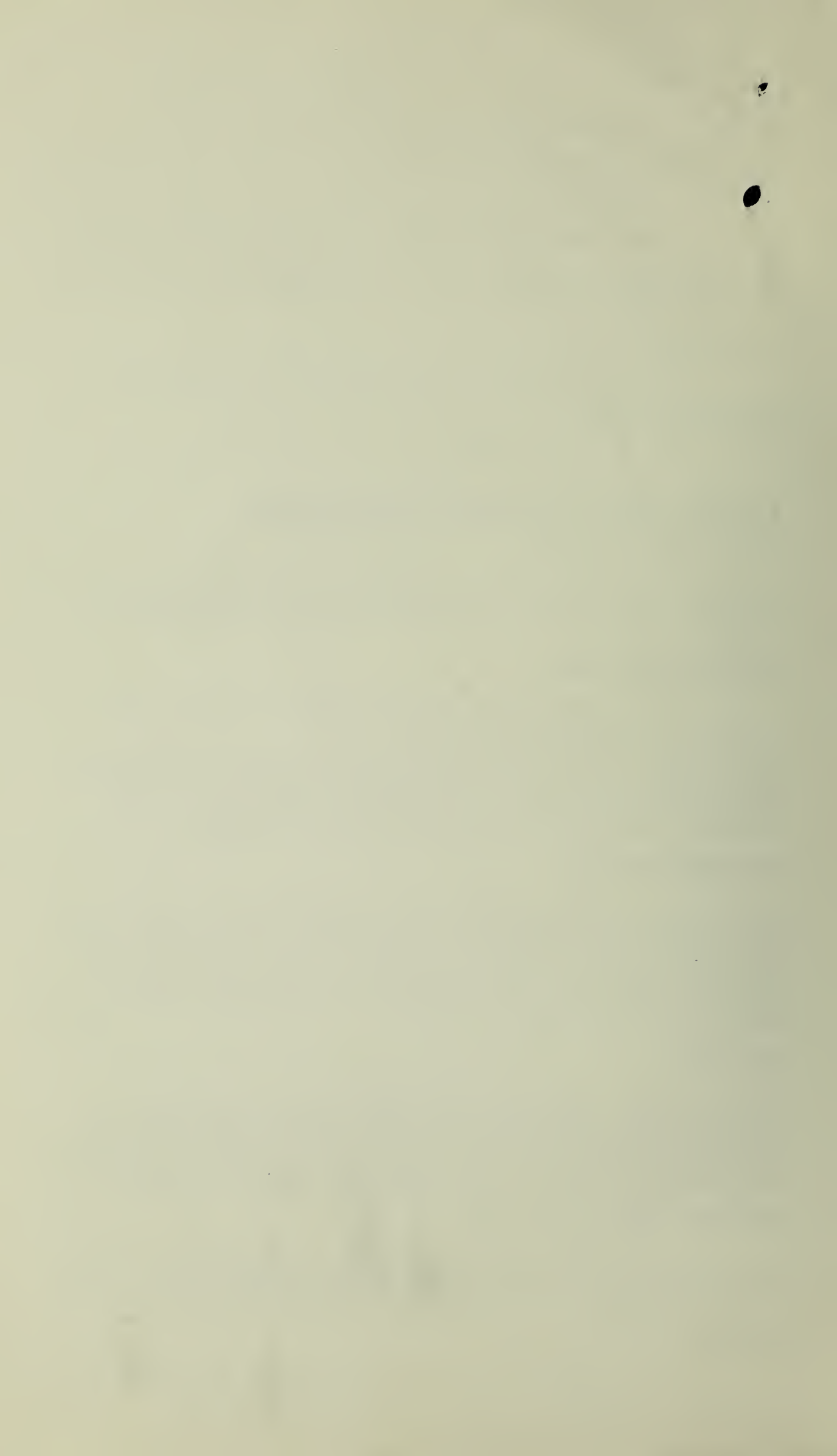
Under the Act the County Council became responsible for the provision of Home Nursing facilities. The nurse previously part employed by the various district Nursing Associations became full time nurses for the County Council, and District Nursing Associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centre and Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics are administered by the County Council but no such clinic is in operation in your area; the nearest available clinic is at Llandrindod Wells.

Hospitals

General and Infectious Disease Hospitals are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.



Disinfection

In the main, current disinfection is advised, and for terminal disinfection, fumigation by spraying is carried out. A modern disinfector to use steam and Formaldehyde will be a great asset to the area.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies sewerage and workings of the Factories Acts which are included in this section of the report.

Water Report(a) Boughrood Parish

Eight houses in the vicinity of Boughrood Bridge draw water from the Llyswen Water Supply. The remaining houses have private supplies. In times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality "suspicious". I sincerely hope the suggested scheme, known as the Bostin will mature in the very near future.

(b) Bryngwyn Parish

The Council own one small water supply in this parish and there is sufficient water to extend the main to the hamlet of Rhosgoch, I am glad to report that this extension was commenced on the 14th. December 1948.

In times of drought this parish suffers greatly, both from the domestic and the agricultural need of water, and your Consulting Engineer has submitted a scheme which will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

(c) Clyro Parish

The parish has one water supply which serves some 37 properties; 19 cottages are served from standpipes and 25 other properties have water laid on.

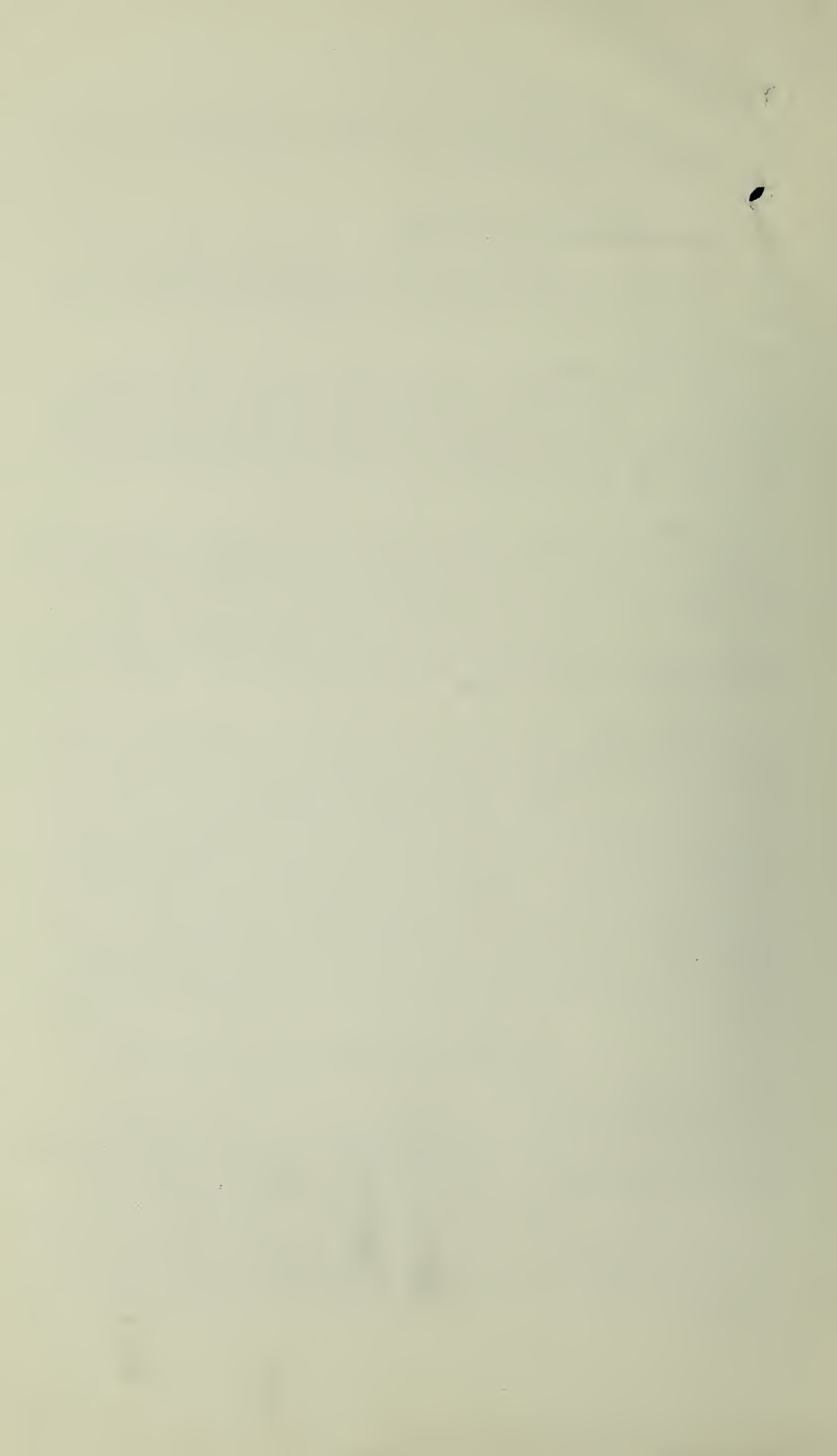
The supply was laid down some 45 years ago and for many years the maintenance has been carried out by the Clyro Court Estate; the whole scheme has been offered to the Council, and it is hoped that the Welsh Board of Health will sanction the transfer. If this is done, much needed improvements can be carried out to improve the quality of the water. The quantity has been found to be sufficient for the needs of Clyro Village if supervision is regularly maintained in the late summer and autumn months; there is more water going to waste than is being used and should this water be brought into use it will be sufficient for any development in Clyro for the next twenty years.

The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small private piped supplies.

(d) Glasbury Parish

In this parish there are 90 cottages, of which, some 45 have the water laid on from the Council's water supply. The other 45, together with 21 farm dwellings, are served by small shallow wells, pumps or small private supplies.

Water from the shallow wells has to be carried for distances varying from 20 to 400 yards, and the only public school falls into this category, and one must confess that such conditions should not be allowed to continue. In the case of drought the agricultural needs do not suffer as greatly as the domestic.



(e) Llanbedr-Painscastle Parish

Has one small supply serving three farms and six cottages, and the other properties have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. In times of drought both domestic and agricultural needs are seriously handicapped. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanvwhllyn Lake.

(f) Llandewi-fach Parish

Has no piped supply and in times of drought the domestic need is greater, since the agricultural need is easily met by the river. The parish can be easily supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 3 cottages and 15 farm dwellings in this parish.

(g) Llandilo Graban Parish

Has three private piped supplies, and one of these serving one farm is so defective it could easily be written off. The remaining properties have small shallow wells and all subject to gross pollution. This parish can be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in this parish.

(h) Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings and 12 are served by a private piped supply laid on to each house. The remaining dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned in the other parishes. This parish could easily be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

(i) Llowes Parish

The Council has a small undertaking in this parish and serves the hamlet of Llowes. The mains to the supply do not allow water to reach the proposed new Housing Site and it is proposed to lay a new 2" main from the reservoir direct to the site. The remaining properties in the parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.

During the year twelve samples from various sources in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

Highly satisfactory	...	Nil
Satisfactory	...	1
Suspicious	...	Nil
Unsatisfactory	...	11


The above include three samples taken from the new extension to Rhosgoch.

The above results are classified according to the Ministry of Health Report No.71 (1939) which suggests that non-chlorinated piped supplies should be as follows:-

		Presumptive coliform count per 100 ml. water
Class I	Highly satisfactory	Less than 1
Class II	Satisfactory	1 to 2
Class III	Suspicious	3 to 10
Class IV	Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10

Small rural private supplies from shallow wells should not often show 50 coliform organisms per 100 ml. Persistent failure to obtain this standard should lead to condemnation. Eleven of the above samples fall into this category.

Arising from the samples taken at Rhosgoch the Surveyor carried out certain improvements and I am glad to report that the source of pollution was eliminated.



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Drainage and Sewerage

There are no sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district but instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineer to prepare schemes for the villages of Glasbury and Clyro.

Number of visits to inspect new drains being laid
to Council Houses 7.

Public Cleansing

In July refuse collection was commenced and Llanstephan, Boughrood, Boughrood Brest, Giltwrech, Ffynnon Gynydd, Glasbury, Ilowes and Clyro have received a weekly service. Llandilo, Llanbedr-Painscastle and Bryngwyn have received a monthly service. All the refuse is tipped by the Control Method at Clyro. It is regretted that some householders are not taking full advantage of this service, but no doubt I shall be able to report an improvement next year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information for the year:-

Nuisances

Number of complaints received	18
Number of complaints investigated	18
Number of premises visited	21
Number of premises re-visited	11

There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repairs are of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of materials will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under Byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	9
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Shops

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	23
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Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district	8
Number of inspections made	23

Camping Sites

There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary.



Eradication of Bed Bugs

Any premises found found, as a result of complaint or inspection, to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations, but no premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed, who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban District Council and the Hay Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year	92
Number of premises found infested	37
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator	22
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	326
Number of dead rats recovered in the year	114

From the above figures it will be noticed that more rats were killed during the year than in 1947 and it is accounted for by the service given to farmers. I feel confident that if the servicing of farms officially was transferred to the local authority much better results would be obtained. No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

SECTION 5 HOUSING

Number of house to house inspections	19
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There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. I am glad to report that the 8 Council houses were completed together with 4 houses built by private enterprise. One of these was a farmhouse.

SECTION 6 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk sampling in the District is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Service. Under this scheme an attempt is made by the Sanitary Inspector to test each retailer's milk once a fortnight. The wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The Laboratory functioning under the scheme is situated at Brecon.

Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories:

Category A	...	Milk of good keeping quality.
Category B	...	Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
Category C	...	Milk of poor keeping quality.

The following figures show the number of results of milk samples taken during the year:

Number of samples taken	...	87
Number in Category A	...	66
Number in Category B	...	10
Number in Category C	...	7

One box of samples arrived too late at the laboratory for analysis.

Number of visits to dairies and cowsheds	63
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Meat There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse at Brecon. No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Other foods Twenty four tins of food were condemned during the year.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district, but three visits were made to other premises.

Ice-cream Premises

There is only one property registered for the sale of ice-cream in the district and no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Number of visits made ... 3

Fried Fish Shops

There are no fried fish shops in the district.

SECTION 7 PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following number of cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year:-

Measles	3.	Scarlet Fever	3.
Pneumonia	2.	Whooping Cough	2.

Number of premises disinfected ... 4

Veneral Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital, Hereford for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

There were two cases notified during the year. The County Council is responsible for the Allowance Scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work is carried out by the Radnorshire County Council and no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON. M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

